



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

Legislative Fiscal Analyst
CLAYTON SCHENCK

DATE: May 28, 2004

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Pamela Joehler, Senior Fiscal Analyst

RE: Status Report on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee

The Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (Subcommittee) is a subcommittee of the interim Education and Local Government Committee that is staffed by the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) and Legislative Services Division (LSD). This status report is provided to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) to inform committee members of LFD staff activities in regard to the Subcommittee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHARED LEADERSHIP PLAN

The Subcommittee has continued its review of the Economic Development Shared Leadership Plan (Plan) since the last briefing in March 2004.

Interested persons from the legislative and executive branches of state government, the Montana University System, small business and other areas of Montana collaborated during the March/April 2004 time period to develop economic development project recommendations for consideration by the Leadership Group, a group of Montana government, business, and education leaders that is providing executive oversight to this Plan. In May 2004, the preliminary list of economic development ideas covering the initiative themes listed below were presented to a joint meeting of the Subcommittee and the Montana Board of Regents for review and comment:

- o Two-year Education
- o Distance Learning
- o Montana University System – Business Partnerships
- o Montana University System and Government Collaboration
- o Promote and Enhance Access to Postsecondary Education
- o Montana University System – Montana Promotion Partnerships

The Subcommittee and Board of Regents added a seventh initiative – Workforce Training – and then gave a green light for initiatives to be further developed, including developing or refining the estimated necessary investments to launch the initiatives. This information is expected to be

available in July 2004, when the Subcommittee and the Board of Regents will again jointly meet to consider the proposals.

JOINT RESOLUTION DRAFTED

The Subcommittee endorsed a working draft of a joint resolution urging the legislature to support the efforts of the Board of Regents and the Montana University System to strengthen the state's economy by implementing the policy recommendations identified in the Shared Leadership Plan. This resolution will be finalized as the Subcommittee completes its work later in the interim and presented to the Education and Local Government Committee for its consideration and endorsement by September 2004.

S:\Legislative_Fiscal_Division\LFD_Finance_Committee\LFC_Reports\2004\June\PEBP_June_2004.doc